

In the Specification

Corrections are made as follows: Page 7, line 15:

The knife holder (100) in Fig. 1 has an essentially conventional construction with, removably mounted on a microtome base, a base member (1) on which a receiving member (2) for the cutting knife (3) is received, rotatable around the cutting edge of the cutting knife (3) for free angle setting. The free angle set at any given time is fixedly set by means of a clamping mechanism (not shown here), which can be operated by means of a lever (6). To fixedly clamp the knife (3), a clamping plate (4) is provided, with which the knife (3) is in a known manner clamped firmly between the receiving member (2) and the clamping plate (4) by means of a further clamping mechanism operable by means of a lever (5). The base member (2) has, on the side toward the specimen and in the middle region, a recess in which the specimen to be sectioned can come into contact with the cutting edge of the knife (3) and the specimen can be guided over the knife (3) for section removal. The knife is usually freely accessible precisely in the region of this recess of the receiving member (2), so that a cutting injury can very easily happen to the operator. In order to reduce the risk of such cutting injuries, a pivotable yoke (7) is arranged on the clamping plate (4) and can be pivoted, in the case of mounting and adjusting operations on the microtome or on the specimen, so that the yoke covers the cutting edge of the knife (3). After the conclusion of the adjustment operations and before entering into section removal, this guard yoke (7) must however be pivoted back again into a position in which the knife (3) is accessible to the specimen, since otherwise section removal could not take place.

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So far as just described, the knife holder in Fig. 1 corresponds to a conventional knife holder. According to the present invention, a further blade guard is provided on the base

member (1) of the knife holder. This blade guard (8) consists of two arms (9a, 9b) which are pivotably arranged at the end sides of the base member (1) and which respectively have a holding jaw (10), with a plate (11) of transparent material connecting the holding jaws (10). The plate (11) preferably consists of PMMA. The plate (11) together with the two holding jaws (10) extends over the whole length of the knife holder, in the direction of the cutting edge of the knife to be received.

Page 10, lines 9-18:

In the traversing microtome shown in Fig. 5, the specimen holder (13) with the specimen (12) received on it is horizontally, linearly displaceable on a slide (16) relative to the knife holder with the knife (3) received on it. An electromagnetically actuatable brake device (17) is arranged in the microtome base member (1) and can arrest the slide (16) in its position at any given time. This brake (17) is electrically connected to the switch (15) in the pivot joint of the plate (11) of the knife holder such that the brake (17) only releases the slide (16) when the plate (11) is pivoted into its functional position in which it covers the cutting edge of the knife (3). In all other cases, a movement of the slide (16) is locked by the brake (17), so that an unintentional displacement of the slide during adjustment operations on the specimen (12) or on the knife (3) is prevented.

The circuit, not shown in Fig. 5, by means of which the switch (15) on the knife holder is connected to the brake (17) is shown in Fig. 6c. The switch (15) is for this purpose connected in the circuit of a current source (18), in series with the electromagnet (17) which opens the mechanical drive brake. Furthermore, a further switch (24) on the control panel of the microtome, and an emergency stop switch (21), which is embodied as a normally closed contact, are provided in series with the electromagnet (17) which opens the drive brake. Opening one of

the switches (15, 21, 24) effects an immediate arrest of the slide (16). The serial connection with the further switches (21, 24) also enables the arrest of the slide (16) to be effected in the cases in which the blade guard is in its functional position.

Page 12, lines 5-6

In the embodiment example in Fig. 7, the knife holder according to the invention is shown in connection with a disk microtome. This disk microtome consists of a baseplate (30) on which a circular disk (33) for receiving the specimen (32) is arranged by means of a column (31). The disk (33) can be rotated by a motor drive, not shown here. Furthermore, the base portion (34) of the knife holder (34), with the knife (37) received in it, is arranged on the baseplate (30). The previously described blade guard with the arms (35a, 35b) and the plate (36) connecting the arms is pivotably arranged on the base portion (34) of the knife holder (34). Cutting injuries on the knife are largely excluded by the knife holder according to the invention in such a disk microtome also, since, by the coupling of the switch connected to the pivoting mechanism of the guard device with the drive motor for the disk (33), a rotation of the disk (33) is only possible when the plate (36) is situated in its functional position covering the knife (37).